Provident Fund.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I beg to move "*That a Provident Fund for the benefit of these inferior servants be opened into which every such servant of Government drawing a maximum salary of Rs. 15 be compelled to pay annas 8 per mensem and the Government to contribute an equal sum to the same fund as suggested on page 18 of the report of the Special Finance Committee.*"

This is a proposition for a Provident Fund, and I may club along with it the other proposition also.

Deputy President.—Only one by one.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to second it.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I support it. But I have got one resolution identical with this one and I withdraw it.

(*Hence the following resolution was considered withdrawn:*)—

"*This Council recommends to the Government that contribution to the Provident Fund be made compulsory in the case of all Government officers and menials, and that a scheme of State Life Insurance be also introduced*".)

The resolution of Mr. Salem was put and agreed to.

Insurance Fund.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I beg to move "*that an Insurance Fund be also started by the Government for the benefit of these inferior servants drawing a maximum sum of Rs. 15 a month for the purpose of providing for their families in case of premature death of such servants, and that every such servant of Government be compelled to pay annas eight a month towards such insurance fund per mensem and that a sum of Rs. 200 be paid to such servants on the attainment of their 55th year of age or to their heirs and successors in case of death, and the fund be called 'The Cochin Public Servants Family Insurance Fund*".

I would say only two words. We have got roughly about 3,000 inferior servants drawing about Rs. 15 and less. If they give 8 annas, it will bring into the coffers of the Government 1,500 rupees every month, or Rs. 18,000 a year. The death rate between the ages of 25 and 55 according to the last census is only 7 per thousand. If 21 people die in the year, this sum that is contributed by these people would be ample to form a fund of mutual benefit to them. So that, a man dying would have the consolation that his poor family will get Rs. 200 from this Rs. 1,500 in the month or Rs. 18,000 in the year. That fund should be earmarked and made to accumulate and kept in the custody of the Government to meet such contingencies. This will be self-supporting. The tax-payer's money would not go at all. There will be ample provision for them for a rainy day. With these words, I commend this resolution.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I second that, Sir.

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